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Cont.
7. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 9,
characterized in that a filter (11) is present in the flow
path of the solution situated between the outlet (10) of
the reservoir (2) and the inlet (6) of the chamber (3).

8. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 9,
characterized in that the outlet (7) of the chamber (3) is
provided with a discharge tube (14).

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been cancelled without prejudice and
new Claim 9 has been added.

Claims 4-8 have been amended so that they are now
dependent upon newly added Claim 9 instead of cancelled
Claims 1, 2 or 3.

The claims now standing in the case are considered to
be more clearly directed to the preferred embodiments of
the invention as set out in page 2, lines 13-30 of the
specification.

The rejection of Claims 4, 5, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C.
102(b) as anticipated by Heskett et al. is considered to
lack merit.

The Heskett et al. patent is not considered to teach, or even suggest the device defined by even Claim 9, the most generic claim.

Unlike the device defined by Claim 9, there is no adjustable restriction provided in the flow path of the solution situated between the outlet (outlet sleeve 176) of the reservoir (accumulator tank 24) and the inlet (port 175) of the chamber in which the ion exchange cartridge is placed (tank 40). It should be noted in this regard that valve 178 of the Heskett et al. patent is not shown to be adjustable.

The rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Heskett et al. is considered to lack merit. The Heskett et al. patent is not considered to teach, or even suggest, the device defined by Claim 6 for reasons given in regard to parent Claim 9.

The rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Heskett et al. in view of Prior is considered to lack merit.

The Heskett et al. patent is not considered to teach, or even suggest, the device defined by Claim 7 for reasons given in regard to parent Claim 9. Prior is not considered to fill the above-noted gaps in the teaching of the Heskett et al. patent.

Additionally neither the Heskett et al. patent nor Prior teach, or even suggest, the presence of a filter in the flow path between the outlet of the reservoir for the regenerating solution and the inlet of the chamber that holds the ion exchange cartridge.

In this regard, it should be noted that the filter of Prior (screen 73) is not located in the flow path (brine conduit 16) between the outlet reservoir for the regenerating solution (brine tank 11) and the inlets of the chambers (tanks 8 and 9) that hold the ion exchange cartridges.

An early allowance of the claims and case is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date
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On Oct. 1, 2001

By Norman N. Spain

APPENDIX

4. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 9 3, characterized in that the restriction (27) is present in the inlet (6) of the chamber (3).

5. (Twice Amended) A device as claimed in claim 9 3 ~~or~~ 4, characterized in that the restriction (27) is provided with a spring-loaded non-return valve.

6. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 9 2, characterized in that the outlet (10) of the reservoir (2) lies at a higher level than the outlet (7) of the chamber (3) in the operational condition of the device.

7. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 9 2, characterized in that a filter (11) is present in the flow path of the solution situated between the outlet (10) of the reservoir (2) and the inlet (6) of the chamber (3).

8. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 9 2, characterized in that the outlet (7) of the chamber (3) is provided with a discharge tube (14).

9. A device for regenerating an ion exchange cartridge (16), which cartridge (16) is provided with an inlet (20) and an outlet (21), characterized in that the device is provided with a reservoir (2) for the accommodation of a solution (26) in which alkali metal ions and chloride ions are present, said reservoir (2) provided with an outlet (10) to which the inlet (20) of the cartridge (16) can be connected, a chamber (3), in which the cartridge (16) can be placed, provided in the device, said chamber (3) provided with an inlet (6) and an outlet (7), said inlet (6) of the chamber (3) being connected to the outlet (10) of the reservoir (2), said inlet (6) and said outlet (7) of the chamber (3) coupled to the inlet (20) and the outlet (21), respectively of the cartridge (16) when the cartridge (16) is placed in the chamber (3) and an adjustable restriction (27) provided in the flow path of the solution situated between the outlet (10) of the reservoir (2) and the inlet (7) of the chamber (3).

1. ~~————— A device for regenerating an ion exchange cartridge (16) which is provided with an inlet (20) and an outlet (21), characterized in that the device is provided with a reservoir (2) for the accommodation of a solution (26) in which alkali metal ions and chloride ions are present, which reservoir is provided with an outlet (10) to which the inlet (20) of the ion exchange cartridge (16) can be connected.~~

2. ~~————— A device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the device is provided with a chamber (3) in which the ion exchange cartridge (16) can be placed, which chamber is provided with an inlet (6) and an outlet (7), said inlet (6) of the chamber being connected to the outlet (10) of the reservoir, while said inlet (6) and outlet (7) of the chamber are coupled to the inlet (20) and outlet (21), respectively, of the cartridge when a cartridge is inserted.~~

3. ~~————— A device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that a restriction (27) is present in the flow path of the solution situated between the outlet (10) of the reservoir (2) and the outlet (7) of the chamber (3).~~